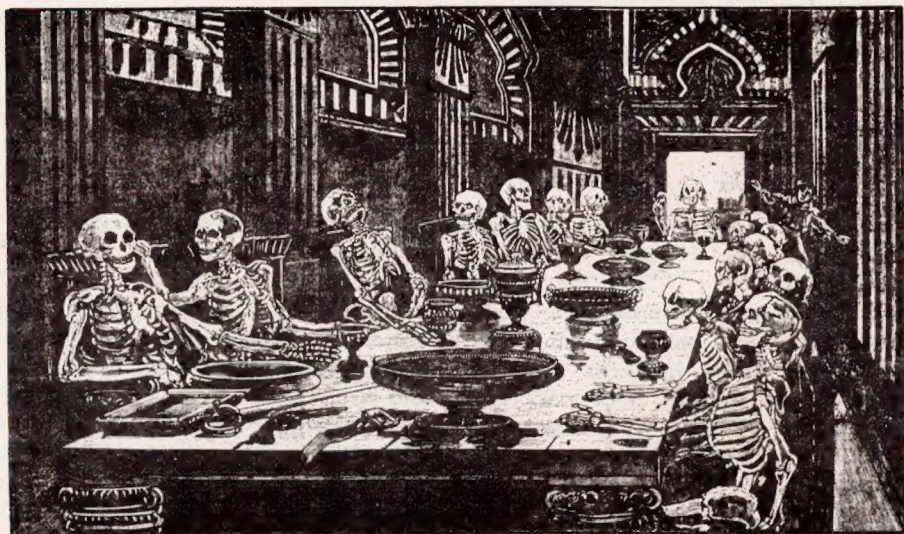


NOVEMBER 1931

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

OFFICIAL ORGAN HAPPY HOURS BROTHERHOOD



"ROBINSON CRUSOE, JR.," GETS A SHOCK

A STRIKING WOODCUT FROM A FAMOUS OLD-TIME STORY PAPER

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The December number of DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP, in addition to the compliments of the season, will contain a truly informative article by Ross Craufurd on the celebrated E. Harcourt Burrage entitled, "The English Giant." Burrage was the author of the famous long story, "Handsome Harry," reprinted so many times in the Tousey publications. In this December number will appear also the announcement of an extraordinary series of articles on the history of American dime novel literature which will begin in our January number. This remarkable series, the result of ten years of research and effort by a well known specialist, will be worth many times the cost of a year's subscription. Be sure that *yours* is renewed for 1932.

WANDERINGS OF THE DIME NOVEL

BY PATRICK MULHALL

Resuming the subject of the wanderings of the dime novel, I shall now deal with the "borrowings" from American sources made by the editors of *The Young Briton*, *Sons of Britannia*, and other English boys' journals published by George Emmett fifty to sixty years ago.

In *The Young Briton*, a popular weekly which ran from 1869 to 1877, there appeared many serials of the "dime novel" order. The list which follows gives the year in which stories of American origin were reprinted in this paper, the title and the name of the author when revealed.

We may draw our own conclusions as to why the names of the writers were withheld. For those interested in the question, it should not, even at this late date, be difficult to identify the writers, especially as the tales bear their original titles. So I leave the matter in the hands of the readers of our magazine.

The Young Briton, from 1871 to 1877, ran the following stories :

1871—"Hark Cringle, the One-Armed Buccaneer," by Ned Buntline ; "Old Pete, the Hunter ;" "Rube, the Scalper ;" "The Mad Ranger ;" "The Password ;" "The Privateer's Bride ;" "Metamora, the Forest King." [It is of interest to note that "Metamora" was labeled as "written for *The Young Briton*," each instalment being accompanied by a statement to that effect, the editor, however, omitting to mention the author's name. It was, I believe, written by Albert W. Aiken, and later published as a dime novel].

1872—"The Sharpshooter, or Perils of a Trapper's Life," by Captain Carleton ; "The Lost Dragoons ;" "Buffalo Bill's Best Shot ;" "Buffalo Bill's Last Victory ;" "The Scout, or the Knight of the Prairie ;" "The Border Huntress ;" "Barefoot Billy ;" "The Boy Who Made His Fortune."

1873—"The War Tiger of the Modocs," by Captain Carleton.

1874—"The Boy Slaves," by Captain Mayne Reid ; "Black Alf, or the Ghost of the Gulch ;" "The Boy Diver, or Cora the Net-Weaver."

1876—"Swift Wing, or the Phantom Warriors ;" "The Brave Boy Hunters ;" "A Voyage in the Days of the Pirates," by George H. Coomer ; "The Pirate's Slave, or the Boy in Chains," by Bracebridge Hemming.

1877—"The Young Scouts, a tale of the American Revolution ;" "The Young Rover of the Wilderness, or the White Horse of the Prairie."

In the George Emmett journal, *The Sons of Britannia*, the following serials of American origin appeared :

1871—"The Gold Finder ;" "The Ice Fiend ;" "Three Brave Boys."

1872—"The Boy Gladiator," by G. Pickens Alcott ; "Captain Jim ;" "The White Brave ;" "Red Kentuckians ;" "Mountain Tom," by Ned Buntline.

1874—"Fatherless Bob," by Bracebridge Hemming.

1875—"Lone Wolf, the Apache Chief," by Lieut. E. R. Jayne.

1876—"Mischievous Mat," by Bracebridge Hemming ; "Lion Jack," by P. T. Barnum ; "Young Ironsides, or the Pirates of the Treasure Ship."

1877—"Jack in the Jungle," by P. T. Barnum ; "Cave in Mountain."

In *The Young Englishman*, another of the Emmett journals, appeared the following stories :

1873—"Texas Jack, the White King of the Pawnees," by Ned Buntline ; "The Young Woodranger."

1874—"Rocky Mountain Sam."

1875—"The Boy Gunner," by Roger Starbuck.

1876—"The Phantom of the Prairie."

The lists given above are not exhaustive. There are other tales of similar class but of uncertain origin in those old journals. For instance, long serials entitled "The Hunter's Feast," and "The Prairie Hunter," in *The Young Englishman's Journal*, 1868-1869, and "Heart of Fire, or the White Chief of the Tuscatoras," in *Young Gentlemen of Britain*, 1869, labeled by the editor as "written expressly for this journal."

—:o:—

SELECTIONS FROM "THE LIFE OF PETER PAD"

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF

A FRANK TOUSEY DIME BOOK OF THE EARLY EIGHTEEN-EIGHTIES

PART THREE

Only a short time since I received the following characteristic note from him :—

FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL, New York
March 5, 1879

MY DEAR OLD FRIEND PAD :

Me an' dad and der kid's feelin' bully. We've just been chinnin' 'bout you. Come up to-morrow night an' have a feed with us, an' we'll talk over old times. Three bully boys with three glass eyes an' can't see.

Don't miss it.

Your own SHORTY

You bet I took in that "feed," and it was "high pie." The evening was passed most pleasantly with songs, stories, and jokes. In fact, Shorty is one of the most enjoyable fellows on the top of the earth.

Next to Shorty, in point of success, come "Chips and Chin-Chin," neither of whom are strangers to my many readers ; but few, if any of them, ever suspected that "Chips" was drawn from real life.

But fewer still ever suspected that he was a living character, or that in his adventures I gave portions of my own history and experience.

"Tommy Dodd" I have before referred to. I met him at Mr. Pelton's school, at Firdell, and he is at present living in New York, rich and happy, and I often dine at his palatial mansion, where we talk over old times, and I get pleasantly abused for giving him away to the world as I did.

"Ebenezer Crow" is also a true character, and I saw him only a few days ago, driving the family carriage of Mr. Bounce. He is still fat, black, and greasy, and just the same "coon" as ever.

"Stump" resides in New York, when at home, for he remains captain of the *Robin Hood*, and is as happy as the day is long.

And so with all the characters I have presented to the young readers of this country—they were all drawn from life, or they were real characters.

Such characters are sure to be appreciated, whereas unreal ones are very soon forgotten.

Well, boys, here you have it.

I have yielded to your oft-expressed desire to know all about the author of the stories that have given you so much pleasure; I am glad they have made you happy, and feel confident that they have never exerted a bad influence over you.

Fun is as natural as breathing, and just as long as I can wield a pen for your entertainment, just so long shall that pen administer to your pleasure; and in closing now, allow me to thank you for your kind words and interest in me, and until the last—for the fun of the thing—believe me ever, yours truly,

PETER PAD

(THE END)

—:0:—

THE LAST NUMBER OF *THE GOLDEN ARGOSY*

BY FRED T. SINGLETON

PART TWO

The turn in the fortunes of the publisher had come. With sheer grit, he had kept the paper going through good and ill for several years, and finally put it over with his own pen, writing, at night, some six thousand words a week, in addition to holding down, in the daytime, all the jobs on the paper, from office boy to general manager. A third story from his pen, "The Boy Broker," ran through the paper shortly afterwards, and proved to be a big circulation builder.

The next two years were a bit easier for Munsey. There was a lot of fresh snap and sparkle in his sixteen pages every week, and at six cents a copy *The Golden Argosy* crashed through the front on the news-stands with profit to all concerned. With continued success and increasing circulation, the paper began to influence the size, style, and even the name of all the other boys' papers of the day. In the fall of 1887, Frank Tousey's *Young Men of America*, a thirteen-year-old broadsheet weekly of eight pages, same size as *The Boys of New York*, was reduced to the smaller over-a-l dimensions of *The Golden Argosy*, and made sixteen pages instead of eight. Two years later Tousey changed *Young Men of America* to *The Golden Weekly*,

picking up "*Golden*" after Munsey dropped it, just as Munsey had taken the magic word off the front page of *Golden Days* in 1882. In January, 1888, plainly influenced by the success of *The Golden Argosy*, Norman L. Monroe started *Golden Hours*, a five-cent weekly built to Munsey's pattern, but with a little more allure and flash in picture and content for imaginative boys. *Golden Hours*, with its special flavor, was destined for a long run, and easily dominated the juvenile section of the news-stands in the 1890's.

In the meantime, Munsey was plumbing the boys' paper field to the bottom. He found it impossible by any means to get the circulation above a certain point, and reached the conclusion, in 1888, that the juvenile field had limitations for his further dreams of publishing. So that on November 24, 1888, we come to the last number of this superior paper. But there is no melancholy note—no yielding to changing tastes or rival competition. It amounted to deleting the "*Golden*" in the name of the paper, a reduction in over-all page size, with an increase in the number of pages to thirty-two and cover. Although still built for young he-men, the paper in the new format took on more of an adult flavor, and early in the 1890's *The Argosy* finally went over to a standard all-fiction magazine, the first of its kind in America. In this form it had a long and prosperous run.

The last number of *The Golden Argosy* contained six first-class serials: "The Two Rivals, or the Road to Fame," author's name not given; "The Gold of Flat Top Mountain," by Frank Converse; "The Giant Islanders," by Brooks McCormick; "Bob Lovell, the Young Fireman of the Ajax," by Edward S. Ellis; "Ray Culver, or through Deep Waters," by Matthew White, Jr.; and "My Friend Smith," by Talbot Baines Reed. A new story, "The Prisoners of the Cave," Optic, was announced to start in new *Argosy*.

Almost an entire page in this last number is given over to an announcement of the change in size, number of pages, and name. "The Golden Argosy, sounded too much like the nursery," wrote the publisher, "too much like a 'namby pamby,' 'goody goody' sheet such as very small boys and girls delight to read. *The Argosy*, simply, has a manly ring—a vigor and dash characteristic of the tone of the paper."

But this last number of *The Golden Argosy* marked the passing of the old-time boys' papers of the nineteenth century. Within a few years, even the twenty-year-old *Boys of New York*, last of the old-fashioned folio sheets, disappeared from the news-stands almost on the eve of the opening of the first nickelodeon, the "lickering pictured story" of which spelled the doom of the boys' nickel story paper and novel.

—:O:—

The cover of the December number of DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP will carry a fine half-tone reproduction of a rare old-time illustration of Frank Reade, Jr., in his workshop demonstrating a miniature air-ship to a crowd of New York financiers, surrounded by models of all his famous inventions.

JONNIE JONES' DIARY

PART SIX

PUBLISHER'S NOTE—There is still a chance to win the prizes offered in June to first reader guessing name of author of this series. No one has guessed right yet. This is the last instalment.

Bob has kild 4 of the nabors cats and licked maws pecaneese dog twice now. Don't think maw will like Bob very wel, specially since he bit her ankul. Gut some comic Wide Awake Librurys from Gus. "Senatur Muldoon," "The Shortys Farmin'," "Those quiet twins," etc. Paw red one last nite, and all he dun wuz larf while he wuz redin it. Maw looked disgusted et him, but didn't say anything.

Aug. 7—Helped Mister Black, Jim's paw, today, hayin. Jim driv the hoss rake, and I helped store away the hay in the barn. Fell off the hay bin twicet, but did not hurt me any. Mr. Black giv us each a quarter. I bought 5 Young Wild Wests with mine. Am reedin "Young Wild West an the Chocktaw Cheef, or the Hidden Valey an the Lost tribe." It's grate. Gosh I wisht I had a hoss like Spitfire. Paw giv me a dandy Beaduls Dime to-nite, "Texas Jack, the Perarie Ratler." Jack is a pard of Buflo Bill. Gosh, they are a grate pair. Wisht I could be like Jack or Bil when I gro up.

Aug. 16—In Sunday skool today the teacher asked Gus who wuz the strongest man in olden times. "Samsun" sez Gus. "Rite" says the teacher, an why?" "Cause" sez Gus, "He puled down the pillars of a tempul and the tempul tumbled in and kild lots of pepul." "Rite agin" sez teacher.

Now, Jonny, how did Samsun compaire with modurn strong men of today?" "Not at all" sez I. "An why," sez teacher. "Cause" sez I "Teddy Roseyvelt is a stronger man than samsun ever wuz." "Nonsens" sez teacher, "What giv yu that foolish idear?"

"Wel" sez I, "Teddy puld down thousands of votes from the Republicun party when he run fur president on the Progresive ticket, an nobody wuz hurt when the Republican roof fel in eithur." "Smarty" sez teacher, "I'm goin to tel your maw." An I ges she did as maw sent me to bed without my super.

Aug. 30—Tuday's my burthday, an maw bot me to books as a present. "Jonny" sez maw, "hear are to nice books fur yer. Rede nice books like these and leve the trashy dime novuls to your paw." "Wate a minut maw," sez I. "I gut them to stories now." "Nonsens" sez maw, "yu nevr had nice stories like these befour." "So I gut out too of my Brave and Bolds and showd her. "Here we have them maw" sez I, "All Aboard," and "The Boat Club," by Allover Optick. Yours cost a dollar, while mine cost a nickul fur the same stories." "Fine investment," sez Paw. Maw looked dagurs at Paw, but Paw jest grinned and sed no more.

Am reedin one of Paws Old Cap Colliers, "Old Gold-eye, the Minur Detective." It's a dandy. Joaquin Murrillo's almust as good as Jussie James.

(THE END)

RARE NOVELS ^{FOR} EXCHANGE

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86, 87, 88, 89, 91, 97, 101, 108, 113.

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Numbers 1, 2, 16, 17, 733.

Wide Awake Library (James Boys
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Kipling, Gypsy Trail,
Crane, Last Words, 1902.

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